Private Land/Public Wildlife Council Meeting

March 18-19, 2014
The Historic Calvert Hotel
216 7th Avenue South, Lewistown, MT

Meeting Objectives

- Discuss local and regional access programs with FWP staff.
- Exchange knowledge and information with invited landowners on the topics of improving hunting access and improving landowner, hunter, outfitter, and FWP relations.
- Generate options to address the problems/goals identified in February

Tuesday, March 18th

8:00 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Perry, PL/PW Council Chair, will open the meeting and welcome participants and FWP staff by way of introductions. Joe will also follow-up on his request that Council members complete the Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Program course.

REVIEW MEETING OBJECTIVES

Emily Schembra, Facilitator, will review meeting objectives, ask for approval of the February meeting summary, and recap the Council's February achievements.

8:30 a.m. DISCUSS LOCAL BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OPERATION WITH FWP STAFF

Gary Bertellotti (Region 4 Supervisor), Gary Hammond (Region 5 Supervisor), and staff from Region 6 will each spend 20 minutes describing implementation of the Block Management Program in their respective region. The presentations will be followed by 30 minutes of discussion and Q&A with Council members.

10:00 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m. DISCUSS HUNTING ACCESS AND LANDOWNER, HUNTER, OUTFITTER RELATIONS WITH INVITED LANDOWNERS

Invited landowners will be asked to respond to the following prompts:

- Please tell the Council a little bit about your property and how you view wildlife and hunting on your property.
- What opportunities do you see for collaboration with FWP to maximize hunting access and build relationships?

The invited landowners will be asked to respond to each prompt in round-robin style, with time for Q&A following each round. The session will conclude with 40 minutes of facilitated discussion with the Council. The public is invited to observe, but questions and comments will be restricted to Council Members.

12:30 p.m. LUNCH (on-site)

1:30 p.m. DISCUSS THE ROLE OF LOCAL COURTS WITH PETE HOWARD

Pete Howard, Teton County Justice of the Peace, will discuss challenges and opportunities related to enforcement of access programs. Council members will briefly discuss the role of this issue in the larger framework of problems/goals.

2:00 p.m. IDENTIFY KEY TAKEAWAY MESSAGES FROM SPEAKERS

Council members will highlight important points from the morning session, including those addressing problems/goals identified by the Council in February.

2:30 p.m. REVIEW AND AFFIRM EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Council will review and improve the preliminary evaluation criteria developed in February. The **outcome** of this session will be an agreed-upon set of criteria to use for screening options and recommendations in the future.

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m. GENERATE OPTIONS/STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GOALS

As a plenary, Council members will:

- 1. Review, refine and affirm the problems/goals identified in January.
- 2. Generate options to address a number of the affirmed goals.

The **outcome** of this session will be to generate a menu of options from which the Council could – down the road – choose and develop recommendations.

On the topic of improving hunting access:

1. Problem: Private landowners not being comfortable allowing access to public lands, roads and trails.

GOAL: Respecting and understanding private property rights, the end goal is to maximize access to public and private lands.

2. Problem: How to build the rural-urban bridge?

GOAL: Understanding and respecting each other's values

3. Problem: How do we engage and build relationships with non-traditional landowners?

GOAL: Increase public access to private property, specifically property owned by non-traditional landowners.

GOAL: Address the needs of non-traditional *and* traditional landowners.

On the topic of improving hunter, landowner, outfitter, and FWP relationships:

This group generally agreed that communication is at the center of all identified relationship problems.

- 1. **Problem**: Landowner expectations of hunter behavior, game management, and FWP **GOAL**: Improve communication between hunters, FWP, and landowners
- 2. **Problem**: How do we preserve FWP credibility with both landowners and hunters? Specifically, how do we prevent side issues from affecting the credibility of regional FWP personnel (Example: bison management decisions affecting game wardens' relationships with landowners, although the game wardens had no control over the decisions)?

GOAL: Improve FWP credibility with both landowners and hunters

3. Problem: How do we manage hunter behavior, ethics, and violations? **GOAL**: Improve compliance, recognize good behavior

4. GOAL: Establish relationships with out-of-state large landowners.

5. GOAL: Make the BMP easier for all parties (hunters, landowners, and FWP) to use.

4:15 p.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

4:45 p.m. WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

Assign "homework"

Wednesday, March 19th

8:00 a.m. WELCOME

Joe Perry, PL/PW Council Chair, will open meeting, welcome participants, and review the daily agenda.

TRAPLINE REPORTS

Council members will report on what they have heard from their constituents over the past month in relation to the PL/PW Council's work.

9:00 a.m. GENERATE OPTIONS/STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GOALS, CONTINUED

Council members will spend this work session completing work started during

Day 1 to generate a menu of options that address the problems/goals.

11:00 a.m. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

• Develop April agenda; review the process for the next few months

11:30 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

12:00 p.m. ADJOURN AND LUNCH (on-site)